

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British Trade, &c.*

From **Saturday**, January 23. to **Tuesday**, January 26. 1713.

*The Notion of the French beating us out of our Trade in Italy and Spain, farther Exposed.
The Custom-house Accounts of those Goods daily Entred to Italy and Spain, Confute that Opinion.
The Entries of three Days to Leghorne, brought for a Demonstration.
The like of three Days to Spain.
The great Quantities Exported in the West not included in these Accounts, which are often more than at London.
No Danger of the French now, seeing they have been ten Years, and have made no hand of it.
Perpets they have mimick'd a little; but Bayes they never could make one Piece, but what would have been laugh'd at, if it had been brought to the Town-Hall at Colchester.*

THE *MERCATOR* cannot go on with this Paper, without reminding his Opposers of the Absurdity of Their Notions, who have been so forward to say, that the French cannot Sell their Manufactures, Perpetuana's, &c. as Cheap as the English; and that therefore, that we shall send no more to Italy; and that they will Work us out of the Trade to Spain: And the like.

The Edict they published lately, which the King of France had caused to be made for bringing down his Bays and Perpetuana's to the same Price as Ours, is the great Authority they bring to prove this.

Now besides the great Exportation of Woollen Manufactures to Spain and the Streights, of which the *MERCATOR* gave an Account, No. 103. he desires the People, who read those Mens Arguments to consider, This Edict of the French King's has now been published Ten Years, and more; and by the following Account, we may see, what Effect it has had upon our Trade, and whether we are shut out of any of the Markets of Spain or Italy; nay, we shall let them see in time, that we daily send those very Goods to France it self, which they Gasconade us so much about, and with which we are to be beaten out of our Spanish and Italian Trade; and were it not for these Men, had not the making the Treaty Effectual been delay'd, it would have been seen in a differing manner than now it can be, Whether we should have been beaten out of the Trade or no? Well might these Men Answer, when the *MERCATOR* proposed the putting the Trade upon a Trial for a Year! Well might they quote an old Expression of the late King Charles I. *By God not for an Hour!* It's plain they dare not stand the Experiment; they dare not put it to a Trial. The French would so freely run into our Manufactures, as would Convince the whole World, they were not likely to hurt us abroad, that could not Cloth their own People without us at home.

But to return to our Exportation to Italy, which this Edict has been Ten Years a destroying, and our Exportation to Spain, which was to be a losing Trade to us: Besides what the *MERCATOR* gave you for One Day before, which was prodigious, take the following Account for a few Days since; and observe as you go, that this is the dead of Winter, at the lowest Ebb of Trade, no Flota or Galleons going away for New-Spain, if they were, the Accounts would be quite another thing; but as it is, if they had any share of Grace, they would Blush at it.

From the Custom-House.

Exported to Leghorn in Three Days, (viz.)
Jan. 19, 20, 21.

210 Stuffs
592 Perpets and Serges
100 Kerfies
60 Long Cloths
Besides other Goods which are not Woollen.

Memorandum,

A large share of all the Goods Entred under the general Head of the Streights, are sent to Leghorn.

Come we then to our Exportations to Spain in the same time, as follows, (viz.)

From the Custom-House.

Exported to Spain in Three Days, (viz.)
Jan. 18, 19, 20.

473 Stuffs
382 Perpets and Serges
120 Spanish Cloths
176 Double Bays

24 Narrow



24 Narrow Cloths Yorkshire
 200 doz. Hose
 30 l. Silk Hose
 23 Callicoes
 24 Handkerchiefs
 148 ps Rich East-India Silks
 300 qr. Beans
 1210 l. Pewter
 4 Ton 2 C. Wrought Iron
 Besides all the Goods, which were Entred to the
 Streights in that time, of which, as before, at
 least One third may be allowed to go to Spain.

Is this the Trade the French have gotten away from
 us, and which we are to lose Money by? Will these
 Men never be ashamed? How long do they think Men
 will believe them, when they are thus shamefully Detected
 in every thing they say?

It is evident, the Perpetuana's made in France have
 not been able to Sell so Cheap as the English, or else
 they are not so good as the English; how else comes it
 to pass, that we have such a Vent for Ours, and that
 every Day at the Custom-house we see vast Quantities of
 Bays and Perpetuana's Entred both for Spain and Italy?
 Whereas the French are at the Door; and, could they
 Underfell us, can upon all Occasions pour in their
 Goods before us, and with much less Expence, the
 Voyage from Marseilles to the Coast of either Italy or
 Spain, being not above two or three Days Sail.

The considering Men, who read these things, must
 needs see, how these Men spin out Words without Sub-
 stance in all they say, and how they prove Nothing;
 indeed they dare put Nothing to the Trial.

This Edict was to have carried away all our Trade,
 nay, it was within half a Farthing an Ell, if we may
 believe one of their Writers, of our never sending any
 Bays or Perpets more to Italy; and yet Ten Year is
 past since this Edict took place: Our Trade has been
 most difficult, hazardous and expensive to Italy, and the
 French stand next-Ours, having all possible Advantage:
 Nay, the very difference of Freight has come to much
 more than the 30 Sols per Hundred Weight; and yet
 in Ten Years time we are not worsted in the Trade.
 We send our Perpets to Leghorn without a Bounty-
 Money paid upon their Exportation, as they pretend:
 Nay, the *MERCATOR* Challenges them to prove,
 whenever we sent more of these Goods to Italy be-
 fore the said terrible Edict, than we have done since.

One thing is to be observed also, which may add
 very much to the Account above of these Manufactures
 Exported thither, (viz.) That the Cities of Bristol and
 Exeter have a great share in the Spanish and Italian
 Trade, and especially in the Exportation of Perpets and
 Serges, in which they frequently send to a greater Value

than they do from the Port of London, because the
 Goods are made more particularly in that part of the
 Country: If then the Quantity Exported from thence
 was added to what is sent from hence, as above, it
 would make this new Story of French Perpetuana's look
 more Ridiculous.

But at last, to come closer to the point, Let not these
 Men amuse the World with Fictions and Forgeries any
 longer; let them come to the Fact: It is true the French
 have attempted to make Bays and Perpetuana's in France
 in Imitation of Ours, and the French King Ten Year
 ago did, by Edict, grant them an Exemption from
 Duties to Encourage them, in which he acted the part
 of a wise and politic Prince, acting for the Encou-
 ragement of his Subjects.

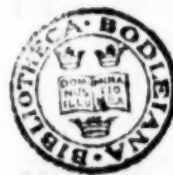
Perpetuana's being a light and thin Stuff, they have
 made in a tolerable manner; tho' never to match the
 English in Goodness and Price. Let them produce the
 Man, among all the Merchants upon the Exchange,
 who will tell us, upon his Credit and Experience,
 that he ever saw a Bale of French Perpets, which came
 up to the English in Goodness, and down to the English
 in Price. It is a fair Challenge; let them either do it,
 or talk no more of it.

But then for Bays; It would make any Man, that has
 lived in France, and seen their awkward Attempts that
 way, it would make him sick to hear them talk of them;
 and the *MERCATOR* would willingly pay the
 Expence, if these Men would but cause a Piece of
 French Bays to be bought at Leghorn, if all that City
 can procure one, which is very much to be doubted,
 and let it but be brought to the Town-Hall at Col-
 chester, and let the People there see it; What Laughter
 would it raise among the People there? What a Satis-
 faction would it give to the good People the Bay-Makers
 there, to see what mighty Steps these new Manufacturers
 have taken towards Cutting them out of their Trade?
 And how much beholden they are to these worthy
 Patriots of Trade for setting up the French Manufac-
 ture, and exalting them at such a Rate.

French Bays! No, Countrymen of Colchester be
 of good Heart; you are in no Danger of being Ri-
 valled by France; Nor can any Man say with Truth,
 that the whole Kingdom of France ever made a
 Piece of Bays, that would have been Sealed at your
 Hall.

E R R A T A in *Mercator*, No. 105.

Col. 4. line 37. for *your* read *our*. Ibid. last Line but
 5. dele *yet*.



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